

395

Tasungi - Vesi (Vesigoths)

Death of Theodosius.

Alexis's elevation to king

394 AD

THEODOSIUS I (The GREAT)  
EMPEROR

395

Theodosius was succeeded by his two incompetent sons ARCADIVS and HONORIUS. Honorius took the WEST and Arcadius the East. Actual power fell to subordinates.

In the West STILICHO, a Romanized German of exceptional ability, who had risen in the imperial service, now ruled as magister militum or commander-in-chief under their new king, ALARIC, the

VISIGOTHS had become dissatisfied  
marched through the Greek peninsula,  
looting as they went. After a temporary  
occupation of the ILLYRIAN provinces, they  
appeared in north Italy, entered the  
Po valley and attempted an assault  
on Milan.

395 → 1191

The Byzantine empire ruled  
Cyprus.  
In 1191 Richard the Lionheart  
took it.

395

1912 Dates J-BK

Alonic, header of the West Balks  
laid waste Macedonia, ILLYRIA,  
and Greece.

395

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Sparta was sacked  
by Athens

The masters of soldiers were obviously men of very great power and corresponding rank at court and it is striking to find at this time so many of them of foreign, usually German, extraction. Many German tribesmen were enrolled in the regular armies of the empire and whole tribes were also enlisted under their own chieftains. These were the so-called FOEDERATI: the chief of



an allied tribe received an annual payment  
supposed to be the pay for the troops he commanded.  
but payments to tribes beyond the frontier as  
bribes to purchase immunity from attack  
had the same name as payments to the  
tribes settled within the Empire. The  
only important exception to the almost complete  
dominance of the military service by Germanic  
troops and generals was the employment of  
ISSORIANS in the latter half of the century as a  
counterpoise to them.

The military was separated from the civilian authority. The armed forces at this time consisted of 2 classes of troops, a mobile field army for use on any threatened border or against any internal trouble, and garrison troops permanently stationed on the frontiers. In the East the armies were commanded by 5 masters of soldiers. Two of these

attended the emperor at constantinople  
and had precedence over the others who  
were in charge of the large military  
districts of Thrace, Illyricum and the  
East (ORIENTIS). Under these were counts  
in charge of the local field forces and dukes  
in charge of frontier garrison troops.

On the West the arms were divided between 2  
masters - one in charge of the cavalry and the  
other of the foot soldiers. Apart from these  
forces there were various kinds of bodyguards  
stationed in the capitals.

395

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Accession of Arcadius  
in eastern empire (d. 408)

395

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Accession of Honorius  
(in Western empire d. 423)

395-408

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Stilicho commander-in-chief  
in west.

(then Aetius 432-454)

(then Ricimer 456-472)

395-430

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St. Augustine, bishop of  
Hippo Regius

395

1912 Dates J-BK

(c 377-408) ARCADIVS

First emperor of the East (395-408). He was the eldest son of emperor THEODOSIUS, after whose death the empire was divided into the West and East. He lived a life of luxury and indifference; the affairs of state being in the hands of RUFINUS, the senator; EUTROPIUS, the eunuch; and EUDOXIA, the wife of ARCADIVS. The only, really good



man of the times was CHRYSOSTOM

8 praetors were chosen by the senate each year.

The Consulship was still the supreme dignity. A consul's duties were similar to those of the praetors but financially he was often helped by the state.

Besides the two regular consuls each year not infrequently a consul suffectus would be named, a man who received the

title and rank without the actual office.  
next to men of consular men came the  
patricians, who had no office or function  
at all. the titles of illustres, spectabiles  
and clarissimi in descending order were  
also purely honorary

more powerful than the senate in the government was the constitution or Imperial Council which was constantly called on by the ruler for advice. The Quator presided over this Council, which included the foreign ministers, the master of office, the resident practitioner prefect, and masters of soldiers, and probably other high officials, assisted by a large body of secretaries and clerks. The

supreme legal minister (the quaestor aeri palatii) drafted the laws and imperial edicts to petitions and generally supervised the empire's business.

The important and powerful master of office (magister officiorum) supervised several rather diverse departments in the civil service and the palace. Separate masters of bureaus reported directly to the emperor from separate secretarial bureaus, but the master of office controlled & supplied these bureaus.

The Master of Offices was also responsible for court ceremonial, the general supervision of foreign affairs and the reception of foreign ambassadors, the imperial post system, and the secret service. These acted as couriers or messengers for confidential business as well as spies on other officials in the capital and in the provinces. He also supervised state arsenals and had some control over further military

commanded, But the imperial bodyguards were  
the only force directly subject to him. They  
were divided into 7 cohorts (in the East) (in the  
West there were 5 cohorts) stationed in and around  
the capital commanded by officers of the rank  
of count.

there were 2 Chief financial ministers each with his own staff. There were the ministers of finance who supervised the raising of taxes and other revenues; governmental monopolies and factories, and the mints; and a sort of minister of the privy purse who managed all imperial funds, imperial lands and the personal and crown property of the emperor.



There was a huge body of officials concerned with the management of the palace itself. At the head was the grand Chamberlain, usually a eunuch. With his subordinates he controlled the palace servants and attendants and even the imperial estates & so came into closer personal contact with both the emperor and empress than any other official frequently wielded enormous power.

As a eunuch he was almost invariably  
despised, but as a man having the sovereign's  
ear, also widely feared and counted. The  
relationship of this man with his fellow-  
Chamberlains - on behalf of palace servants -  
and those in charge of the royal wardrobe was  
very uncertain.

Often the empress had her own chamberlain

All higher officers of the civil service or palace staff as well as all military officers both in the capital and in the provinces were issued, on appointment, a diploma drawn up by a chief personnel officer, who noted the exact precedence each had in the complex hierarchy of honors and dignity at court.

The empire was divided into 4 large prefectures: of the Gauls, of Italy, of Illyricum, and of the East. Each prefecture was under a praetorian prefect, of whom the Prefects of Italy and the East were the highest ranking officials of the empire.

A prefect issued edicts concerning his prefecture, supervised its finances, coinage and grain supply and acted

as Administrator of justice - assisted in the  
last duty by a legal adviser called an assessor.  
The prefectures were divided into *chiroes*  
under *vicarii*, and these were subdivided  
into *provincie*, each under a governor -  
commonly referred to as *praeses*, *proconsul*,  
or *procurator*. The cities of Rome and Constantinople  
were not under the jurisdiction of any  
provincial prefect, but each had a prefect of the  
city. He was head of the Senate. His functions were  
purely civil. He was chief criminal judge,  
police commissioner; in charge of water supply and  
the provisioning of the city.

Early 395

Theodosius the Great died. He was the last ruler of a United Roman Empire.

His two sons divided the empire between them. ARCADIUS in East and Honorius in West.

Christianity had achieved its final triumph with Theodosius so that the emperor besides his supreme temporal power was henceforth also the sacred representative of Christ on earth and as such in a very special way divorced from ordinary mankind. His palace and everything about him was sacred.

Those who approached him had to kneel  
in reverence, his person was holy, and  
he was addressed as DOMINUS (Lord). He  
was supreme commander of all the armies  
and though in theory subject to the dictates  
of the traditional law and the church, in  
practice he was able to change or amplify  
the law ~~and~~ AND CONTROL THE BISHOPS  
OF THE CHURCH



The former ALARIC, King of the  
VISIGOTHS invaded Greece upon  
the death of THEODOSIUS the Great,  
his retreat being purchased by  
a commission to govern ILLYRIUM.

Jan. 17, 395

### Death of Theodosius

This annulled the Foedus of 382. No one seemed interested; the Visigoth GAINAS led the regular Eastern army under the supreme command of STILICHO; for that very reason, ALARIC and his former federates could not be kept in service.

Alaric managed to lead his Visigothic contingents back home to lower MOESIA in less than 10 weeks, plundering.

Pannonia, parts of Dalmatia, and all of  
upper MOESIA along the way, and finally  
he persuaded the Goths at home to join him  
in Thrace

395-476

## Fall of the Roman Empire

Following the death of the last sole emperor, THEODOSIUS I, in 395, the empire once again fell under divided rule. Soon great tribal migrations put unrelenting pressure on the northern borders. In 401 Visigoths entered northern Italy. The Western emperor HONORIUS fled his capital of MILAN for RAVENNA in 409, the same

year Rome itself was invaded. Soon other  
tribes - VANDALS, ALANS, and SUABI - overran  
much of Europe and North Africa. After  
the forced abdication of the last Roman  
emperor, ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS, in 476,  
Italy eventually became an OSTRGOTH  
kingdom. As the west withered the  
east grew strong as a power called  
the BYZANTINE Empire.

395

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Honorius, Emperor in West (b 423)  
His brother, Arcadius was Emperor  
in East (b 408)

Spring 395

Stilicho reacted to the Gothic rebellion  
of Alaric's people by mobilizing the combined  
army of Eastern and Western courts

395

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STILICHO, was a Vandal. He was  
leader of the Roman forces (to 397)  
drove Visigoths (under Honorius) out  
of Greece



Few of the Huns would explain the seemingly aimless and unplanned wandering of the Goths in the following years. They were fighting for a homeland that would be both militarily safe from the Huns and economically healthy.

Led by Alaric, the former federates left the Danubian provinces. The only ones who stayed behind in Thrace

were Gothic minors & individuals who  
had previously split off from the  
main tribe!

The goal was Constantinople where  
Alois wanted to conclude a new and  
substantially better treaty. He led  
his plundering army right to the gates  
of the city. The praetorian prefect went to negotiate  
RUFINUS went in Gothic costume. He concluded  
a foedus with Alois. It is possible that  
in the treaty Alois was given a high military  
post.

395

Sparta was devastated by  
the Goths.

Theodosius died

Division of the Administration into an eastern and a western section became permanent.

ARCADIUS ruled the East.  
with RUFINUS, imperial vicar.

Capital was at Constantinople (Byzantium)

HONORIUS (395 - 423) ruled the West.

The Vandal STILICHO was appointed his

guardian & Chancellor.

The enemies of STILICHO deformed him to HONORIUS, who caused him to be murdered (408)

Rome was the capital of the West.  
till 402

395AD

Theodosius died. (the Great)  
succeeded by Honorius and  
Arcadius who redivide the  
Empire

The empire was permanently divided  
into East (Byzantine Empire) and West  
Rome rapidly lost its political  
importance

Roman Empire is permanently divided.

When Theodosius I (the Great) died at MILAN, he left the EASTERN empire to his eldest son ARCADIUS (17 yrs old), and the WEST to his second son HONORIUS, then only 10. Honorius's reign was dominated by Germanic incursions